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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

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SUBJECT Zabrze Wschodnie Coal Mine

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1. In the Zabrze Wschodnie coal mine near Gliwice, about 6,000 to 7,000 workmen are employed, including about 300 women below ground and about 100 on the surface. The mine is worked in three shifts, each shift lasting 8½ hours (sic). The mine's daily quota is 7,000 tons. The miners receive 19 zloty daily for the fulfillment of their daily norm. If a miner fails to fulfill his norm, he receives only 12 zloty. Most of the men are forced to work 13 to 14 hours a day, so as to produce 150 per cent of the norm if they are to earn enough to meet expenses.
2. The miners work one Sunday a month, called the Plan Sunday, for which they are paid 12 zloty. Failure to work on Plan Sunday is regarded as absenteeism. For four such absences a worker forfeits 10 per cent of his monthly salary; a second series of four absences is punished with imprisonment.
3. All the equipment in the mine is of German origin, including about 20 borers. Two borers are completely automatic. There were about 150 engines (sic) in the mine, mostly of British origin. Recently, two Soviet coal-mining combines, each requiring only one man to operate, have been introduced. Both wooden and iron pit props are used in some of the shafts known to source. The miners object to the iron props not only because they are heavier to set up, but also because they are liable to break unexpectedly under the weight of the roof.
4. There are informants, as a rule Party members, in each section of the mine. There are also about 800 soldiers in the mine who work under ground and are quartered in the mine area. After work, they have to perform normal military duties and training. These units are actually penal commands for unreliaables.
5. Everyone belongs to the trade unions since this is the only way the workers are able to purchase boots and clothes. One per cent of the worker's salary is deducted for union dues.

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-2-

6. The mine physician will permit a miner a leave of absence for only two days, even though he is ill with a fever. Compensation need not be paid either by the mine or by the sick-fund for two days of sick leave; the sick-fund is obliged to pay compensation only after the third day.

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